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INVITATION TO PAY ADDITIONAL FEES

(PCT Article 17(3)(a) and Rule 40.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

02/02/2001

Applicant's or agent's file reference

DTP.P51055PC

PAYMENT DUE

within 30 ~~xxxx~~ days
from the above date of mailing

International application No.

PCT/GB 00/04160

International filing date
(day/month/year)

27/10/2000

Applicant

WEATHERFORD/LAMB, INC. et al.

1. This International Searching Authority

- (i) considers that there are 0002 (number of) inventions claimed in the international application covered by the claims indicated ~~xxxx~~ on the extra sheet:

and it considers that the international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention (Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3) for the reasons indicated ~~xxxx~~ on the extra sheet:

- (ii) ☒ has carried out a partial international search (see Annex) ☐ will establish the international search report on those parts of the international application which relate to the invention first mentioned in claims Nos.:
1-8, 11-13

- (iii) will establish the international search report on the other parts of the international application only if, and to the extent to which, additional fees are paid

2. The applicant is hereby invited, within the time limit indicated above, to pay the amount indicated below:

GBP 572,00 x 0001 = GBP 572,00
Fee per additional invention number of additional inventions total amount of additional fees

Or, EUR 945,00 x 0001 = EUR 945,00

The applicant is informed that, according to Rule 40.2(c), the payment of any additional fee may be made under protest, i.e., a reasoned statement to the effect that the international application complies with the requirement of unity of invention or that the amount of the required additional fee is excessive.

3. ☐ Claim(s) Nos. _____ have been found to be unsearchable under Article 17(2)(b) because of defects under Article 17(2)(a) and therefore have not been included with any invention.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority



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Authorized officer

Paul Faux

1. The present communication is an Annex to the invitation to pay additional fees (Form PCT/ISA/206). It shows the results of the international search established on the parts of the international application which relate to the invention first mentioned in claims Nos.:

1-8, 11-13

2. This communication is not the international search report which will be established according to Article 18 and Rule 43.

3. If the applicant does not pay any additional search fees, the information appearing in this communication will be considered as the result of the international search and will be included as such in the international search report.

4. If the applicant pays additional fees, the international search report will contain both the information appearing in this communication and the results of the international search on other parts of the international application for which such fees will have been paid.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 560 426 A (TRAHAN KEVIN O ET AL) 1 October 1996 (1996-10-01) cited in the application	1-3, 13
Y	column 1, line 46 - line 54 ✓	4, 5
A	column 3, line 2 - line 38	7, 8, 11, 12
	column 4, line 62; figures 1-3	
Y	US 3 195 646 A (BROWN, C.C.) 20 July 1965 (1965-07-20) ✓	4, 5
	column 3, line 6 - line 25; figures 1, 2	
A	US 4 848 469 A (BAUGH J LINDLEY ET AL) ✓ 18 July 1989 (1989-07-18)	4, 5
	column 6, line 47 - line 58	
X	EP 0 961 007 A (HALLIBURTON ENERGY SERV INC) 1 December 1999 (1999-12-01) ✓ column 21, line 37 - line 42; figures 6A, 6B, 7	8
	column 24, line 43 - line 51	
X	GB 2 320 734 A (BAKER HUGHES INC) 1 July 1998 (1998-07-01) page 13, line 12 - line 20; figures 2, 3	8

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

1. Claims: 1-8,11-13

1.1. Claims: 1-6, 11-13

Apparatus for performing a downhole operation, the apparatus comprising a locking member preventing the downhole operation from happening, the locking member being releasable by expanding a wall of the apparatus.

1.2. Claim : 7

Apparatus for performing a downhole operation, the apparatus comprising a wall provided with an extending profile, the downhole operation being performed by expanding the extending profile so as to drive a set of slips onto a cone.

1.3. Claim : 8

Apparatus for performing a downhole operation, the apparatus comprising a wall having grip enhancing means material attached thereto, the tool being actuated when the wall of the tool is expanded into contact with the inside surface of a larger tubular.

2. Claims: 9, 10, 14-16

Method of expanding a tubular in a wellbore.

Please note that all inventions mentioned under item 1, although not necessarily linked by a common inventive concept, could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee.

The subject-matter of claims 1 to 3 and 13 is not new, as the wall of the tool according to US 5 560 426 A, by flexing, also expands outwardly. Claims 1 to 3 and 13 do not comprise therefore any technical feature which is "special" in the meaning of Rule 13.2 PCT.

With reference to claim 4, US 5 560 426 A discloses a tubular body with a wall 28, a ring member 10 provided with slips, a locking member 44 which is unlocked responsive to the expansion of the wall 28 (col. 3, lines 15-21), and removable means (breakaway sleeve 62) for expanding the wall 28 of the tubular body. The "special technical feature" of the apparatus of claim 4 is therefore that the ring member is held in frictional contact with an inner surface of an outer casing by a spring. The problem solved by said features is to permit to hold stationary the ring relative to the tubular body once the locking member has been released, whereby the relative movement between tool and ring can be used to carry out a downhole operation (see for example claim 5). The same "special technical feature" is present also in dependent claims 5 and 6, for definition of "dependent claim" (Rule 6.4 (a) PCT).

Claims 7, 8 and 11 to 13 do not specify features which are either "the same" or corresponding" to the "special technical feature" of

claims 4 to 6, but nevertheless they have been searched in the light of PCT Search Guidelines, Section IV, VII-12.

Claims 9 and 10 relate to the problem of reducing the friction force acting on an expanding member moved inside a tubular, and the problem is solved by providing the expanding member with energizable rollers. Claims 14 to 16 relate to the problem of selectively locally deforming a tubular member and the problem is solved by placing a selectively energizable expansion member inside the tubular to be expanded.

It is therefore apparent that the special technical features of claims 4 to 6 are neither "the same" nor "corresponding" to the ones of claims 9 to 10 and 14 to 16, and the application does not meet therefore the unity requirements of Rule 13.1 PCT.

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5560426	A	01-10-1996	AU 706602 B	17-06-1999
			AU 4814596 A	10-10-1996
			CA 2171358 A	28-09-1996
			DK 35196 A	28-09-1996
			GB 2300207 A,B	30-10-1996
			NL 1002726 C	15-10-1996
			NL 1002726 A	30-09-1996
			NO 961225 A	30-09-1996

US 3195646	A	20-07-1965	NONE	

US 4848469	A	18-07-1989	NONE	

EP 0961007	A	01-12-1999	US 6135208 A	24-10-2000

GB 2320734	A	01-07-1998	AU 4834797 A	18-06-1998
			CA 2224668 A	14-06-1998
			NO 975894 A	15-06-1998



The
Patent
Office



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 9930398.4
Claims searched: 1-35

Examiner: Ian Blackmore
Date of search: 27 June 2000

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:
UK Cl (Ed.R): E1F FCM, FLA,
Int Cl (Ed.7): E21B 7/20, 29/00
Other: Online: EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	GB 2329918 A ✓ (BAKER HUGHES INCORPORATED) see figures	✓
A	GB 2216926 A ✓ (JUMBLEFIERCE LIMITED) see figure 1	✓
A	GB 1448304 A (COMPAGNIE FRANCAISE DES PETROLES) see whole document,	✓

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.